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United States Department of Agriculture,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—Circular No. 12.

ADULTERATION OF ALFALFA SEED.

The act of Congress making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, contains the following item:

The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to obtain in the open market samples of seeds of grass, clover, or alfalfa, test the same, and if any such seeds are found to be adulterated or misbranded, or any seeds of Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*) are obtained under any other name than Canada bluegrass or *Poa compressa*, to publish the results of the tests, together with the names of the persons by whom the seeds were offered for sale.

Under date of May 25, 1904, a circular letter announcing that the collection and testing of seeds, as directed by this act, would begin July 1, 1904, was sent to the seedsmen of the United States whose names appear in the 1904 edition of "The American Florist Company's Directory of Florists, Nurserymen, and Seedsmen of the United States and Canada," and to wholesale seedsmen whose names are not included in that directory. A copy of the circular sent to the Florists' Exchange was published by that journal in its issue of June 18, 1904.

In carrying out the provisions of the act quoted above, in so far as it relates to alfalfa, offerings for sale were solicited through agents of this Department from 742 seedsmen. Upon examination of the samples of alfalfa seed obtained in the open market as a result of these negotiations 23 lots were found to be adulterated, as shown in the following table:

Results of tests of samples obtained in the open market as alfalfa seed and found to be adulterated.

Seed offered for sale as alfalfa by—		Seeds used as adulterants.		
Name.	Address.	Bur clover.	Yellow trefoil.	Total adulterants.
		<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>	<i>Per ct.</i>
Darrison, John T.	13-17 Buffalo street, Lockport, N. Y.		43.8	43.8
Do	do		41.64	41.64
Ebeling, F. H.	217 Warren street, Syracuse, N. Y.	4.06	30.22	34.28
Do	do		10.4	10.4
Harvey Seed Co.	65-69 Ellicott street, Buffalo, N. Y.	3.98	40.46	44.44
Do	do	3.6	38.86	42.46
Do	do		36.86	36.86
Jacot & Mullen	1 Water street, New York, N. Y.		34.34	34.34
Do	do		10.7	10.7
Moody, J. A.	13 South Phelps street, Youngstown, Ohio		35.62	35.62
Do	do		31.78	31.78
Small & Co., W. H.	7 and 9 Upper First street, Evansville, Ind.	3.82	39.82	43.64
Do	do	3.44	32.42	35.86
Do	do	4.38	41.74	46.12
Do	do	2.92	36.3	39.22
Do	do	2.88	24.44	27.32
Do	do	5.5	32.62	38.12
Do	do	3.86	30.74	34.6
Teweles & Co., L.	113-119 Clybourn street, Milwaukee, Wis.	11.34		11.34
Young & Halstead	Foot of Grand street, Troy, N. Y.	5.06	17.02	22.08
Do	do	5.66	17.44	23.1
Do	do	6.74	15.22	21.96
Do	do	5.85	16.625	22.475

The Department takes this occasion to call attention again to its offer, repeatedly made in official publications, in circulars sent to seedsmen, and in announcements through the agricultural press, to test and report upon samples of seeds sent for that purpose by any farmer or seedsman.

JAMES WILSON, *Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 29, 1904.*

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